

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings of claims in this application.

Claim Listing:

1. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for processing a payment to a financial transaction beneficiary located in a foreign country, the method comprising:

receiving, in a computer processor at a Receiver Financial Institution, financial transaction payment instructions from a Client Bank over a computer network in a format associated with a settlement funds transfer system used for funding domestic credit transfer transactions and that provides guaranteed, final and irrevocable self-funding of the transaction to the Receiver Financial Institution that prevents any deficiencies in the self-funding;

analyzing, by the computer processor, the received financial transaction payment instructions; and

generating, in the computer processor, foreign financial transaction payment instructions for at least one financial institution located in a foreign country and transmitting the payment instructions over the computer network, the foreign financial transaction payment instructions including data in a funds transfer messaging service format that is compatible with both the Receiver Financial Institution and the at least one financial institution,

wherein said guaranteed, self-funding of the transaction comprises both the Receiver Financial Institution and the Client Bank being members of the settlement funds transfer system, wherein said members are required to settle transactions initiated using the system daily, and wherein any deficiencies in funding amounts are prevented by guarantee procedures of a central banking authority that controls the settlement funds transfer system.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the settlement funds transfer system comprises a U.S. Federal Reserve Bank funds transfer system that carries out domestic funds transfers over the computer network,

wherein the financial transaction payment instructions cause both an automatic credit and an automatic debit of associated accounts to be made upon receipt.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the funds transfer messaging service format that is compatible with both the Receiver Financial Institution and the at least one financial institution is compatible with a world-wide financial messaging network interfaced with the computer network and comprising standardized messaging services and interface software running in the computer processor that initiates international payments.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the foreign financial transaction payment instructions comply with specifications of SWIFT MT 103.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the Client Bank is a domestic bank.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the financial transaction is self-funding.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the financial transaction payment instructions are received via a network interface with the settlement funds transfer system, said network interface being configured to provide access to a U.S. Federal Reserve Bank funds transfer system that carries out domestic funds transfers.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting the foreign financial transaction payment instructions to the at least one financial institution.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the at least one financial institution includes a branch of the Receiver Financial Institution that generated and transmitted the foreign financial transaction payment instructions.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the at least one financial institution includes a member of a non-Federal Reserve Bank electronic payments system.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the at least one financial institution includes a member of a U.S. Federal Reserve Bank funds transfer system that carries out domestic funds transfers,

wherein the financial transaction payment instructions cause both an automatic credit and an automatic debit of associated accounts to be made upon receipt thereof.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the at least one financial institution includes a correspondent bank that is connected to the Receiver Financial Institution that generated and transmitted the foreign financial transaction payment instructions via a world-wide financial messaging network comprising standardized messaging services and interface software used to initiate international payments, the correspondent bank handling business in a particular geographic area.

13. (Currently amended) A mechanism for processing a payment to a financial transaction beneficiary located in a foreign country, the mechanism comprising:

a computer network interface at a Receiver Financial Institution configured to receive payment instructions from a Client Bank in a format associated with a settlement funds transfer system used for funding domestic credit transfer transactions and that provides guaranteed final and irrevocable self-funding of a transaction to the Receiver Financial Institution that prevents any deficiencies in the self-funding; and

at least one processor including software for analyzing the received payment instructions and generating foreign financial transaction payment instructions for at least one financial institution located in a foreign country, the foreign financial transaction payment instructions including data in a funds transfer messaging service format that is compatible with both the Receiver Financial Institution and the at least one financial institution,

wherein said self-funding of the transaction comprises both the Receiver Financial Institution and the Client Bank being members of the settlement funds transfer system, wherein said members are required to settle transactions initiated using the system daily, and wherein any deficiencies in funding amounts are prevented by guarantee procedures of a central banking authority that controls the settlement funds transfer system.

14. (Previously Presented) The mechanism of claim 13, wherein the settlement funds transfer system comprises a U.S. Federal Reserve Bank funds transfer system that carries out domestic funds transfers,

wherein the payment instructions received from the client bank cause both an automatic credit and an automatic debit of associated accounts to be made upon receipt thereof.

15. (Previously Presented) The mechanism of claim 14, wherein the funds transfer messaging service message format that is compatible with both the Receiver Financial Institution and the at least one financial institution is compatible with a world-wide financial messaging network comprising standardized messaging services and interface software that initiates international payments.

16. (Original) The mechanism of claim 14, wherein the foreign financial transaction payment instructions comply with specifications of SWIFT MT 103.

17. (Original) The mechanism of claim 13, wherein the Client Bank is a domestic bank.

18. (Original) The mechanism of claim 13, wherein the financial transaction is self-funding,

wherein the payment instructions received from the client bank cause both an automatic credit and an automatic debit of associated accounts to be made upon receipt thereof.

19. (Previously Presented) The mechanism of claim 13, wherein the interface is compliant with requirements of a U.S. Federal Reserve Bank funds transfer system that carries out domestic funds transfers.

20. (Previously presented) The mechanism of claim 13, wherein the at least one processor initiates transmission of the foreign financial transaction payment instructions to the at least one financial institution.

21. (Previously presented) The mechanism of claim 20, wherein the at least one financial institution includes a branch of the Receiver Financial Institution that generated and transmitted the foreign financial transaction payment instructions.

22. (Previously presented) The mechanism of claim 20, wherein the at least one financial institution includes a member of a non-Federal Reserve Bank electronic payments system.

23. (Previously Presented) The mechanism of claim 20, wherein the at least one financial institution includes a member of a U.S. Federal Reserve Bank funds transfer system that carries out domestic funds transfers.

24. (Previously Presented) The mechanism of claim 20, wherein the at least one financial institution includes a correspondent bank that is connected to the Receiver Financial Institution that generated and transmitted the foreign financial transaction payment instructions via a world-wide financial messaging network,

wherein the world-wide financial messaging network comprises standardized messaging services and interface software running in the at least one processor that initiates international payments, the correspondent bank handling business in a particular geographic area.

25. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for processing a payment to a financial transaction beneficiary located in a foreign country, the method comprising, in the order indicated:

(a) receiving, in a computer system at a Receiver Financial Institution, funds transfer instructions from a Client Bank in a format associated with a settlement funds transfer system used for funding domestic credit transfer transactions and that provides guaranteed, final and irrevocable self-funding of the transaction to the Receiver Financial Institution that prevents any deficiencies in the self-funding;

(b) ensuring compliance of the funds transfer instructions with one or more government requirements;

(c) if the funds transfer instructions are compliant with the one or more government requirements, ensuring, via the computer system, that any required data fields in the funds transfer instructions meet all data requirements of the settlement funds transfer system, otherwise, ending processing of the funds transfer instructions;

(d) if the funds transfer instructions meet said data requirements, crediting an account of the client bank established for foreign payments with an amount associated with the funds transfer instructions, otherwise, ending processing of the funds transfer instructions and generating an error message in response thereto;

(c) after steps (c) and (d) have been carried out, generating, in the computer system, foreign financial transaction payment instructions for at least one financial institution located in a foreign country; and

(f) transmitting the payment instructions over a computer network, the foreign financial transaction payment instructions including data in a funds transfer messaging service format that is compatible with both the Receiver Financial Institution and the at least one financial institution,

wherein said settlement funds transfer system requires that both the Receiver Financial Institution and the Client Bank are members of the settlement funds transfer system, wherein said members are required to settle transactions initiated using the system daily, and wherein any deficiencies in funding amounts are prevented by guarantee procedures of a central banking authority that controls the settlement funds transfer system.